cations, drawings, critical parameters and also samples wherever required for indigenously developing items. These technical committees relate to armament, aeronautics, electronics, engineering equipment, marine stores, vehicles, infantry combat vehicles and general stores. These committees also give technical guidance during the development of the items by private sector units.

In order to give a further thrust to the participation of Private sector and specifically the small scale Industry sector in the development of defence equipment, an action plan in association with Development Commissioner (Small Scale Industries) was implemented in 1994. As part of the action plan three day workshops/exhibitions were organised at nine different industrial centres in different parts of the country. During these meets, samples of items were displayed and the participants apprised of the technical requirements, quality parameters and the procedure for registration of defence vendors.

Regular interaction between the Department of Defence Production & Supplies and private sector industry is maintained through a two tier mechanism consisting of an Apex Body under the Chairmanship of Secretary (DP&S) and three functional groups chaired by Joint Secretary (Supplies).

The value of the developmental defence supply orders placed on the private sector has risen from approximately Rs. 60 crores per annum during the early eighties to around Rs. 200 crore per annum in recent years. In 1994-95, this touched a peak of Rs. 265.36 crore. Once development is completed, the follow-on business in the private sector for these items is of a considerably higher magnitude.

Setting up of aircraft repair base

3827. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH:
SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the report which appeared in the Pioneer of January 18, 1995 under the caption, "Allied signal plans repair base with HAL";

(b) if so, what are the facts and relevant details in this regard;

(c) what will be the cost of setting up of the aircraft repair base and when will the work on its setting up is likely to be completed; and

(d) what are the details for the sharing of the cost and profits of the proposed repair base?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) has a long standing association with Allied Signal and has been manufacturing aircraft engines under licence. The two companies have signed a memorandum of understanding identifying future areas of cooperation which includes repair and overhaul of equipment manufactured by Allied Signal. However, there is no plan to set up an aircraft repair base jointly by the two companies.

Issues raised by Gen. Buch regarding ex-servicemen and war-widows

3828. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:
SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a statement of Lt. General G.S. Buch (Retired) as reported in the Tribune of 3rd April, 1995 regarding the hardships and hazards faced by ex-servicemen, war-widows and their dependents emphasising the need for enforcement of the principle "one rank one-pension, a Bill of Rights of Ex-servicemen" and asking about the use and appropriation of the Post-war Reconstruction Fund constituted after world war II; and

(b) if so, whether Government have since examined and considered the issues